

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 12, 14-17, and 19-31 are pending in the application. Claims 13 and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Independent claims 12 and 27 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejections. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The art rejections are believed overcome in view of the above amendments. In particular, independent claims 12 and 27 now recite that the single door and the first and second inlets are configured to **face either of the openings** of the first and second compartments. The applied references do not appear to fairly teach or suggest this claimed feature. In JP '360 and JP'746, the door and the first (2) and second (3) inlets do not face any of the openings (41, 42) of the first and second compartments. Rather, the door and the first (2) and second (3) inlets face an internal wall (10e). Likewise, in JP '105, the door (6) and the first (61) and second (62) inlets do not face any of the openings (317a, 317b) of the first and second compartments. Rather, the door (6) and the first (61) and second (62) inlets face an internal wall (K1).

The claimed structure provides the following advantages.

First, since the single door is located in an area in close proximity to the first and second inlets and the single door and first and second inlets are configured to face either of the openings of the first and second compartments, the amount and direction of the air flow required by the air conditioner are easily satisfied by reconfiguring the position, shape and size of the single door, the single door and the first and second inlets without changing the entire case of the air conditioner. However, in the applied references, since a partition wall is fixed at the side of the scroll case, and the partition wall, the single door, and the first and second inlets are located on the line dividing the openings of the compartments into the first compartment opening and the second compartment opening, the above-mentioned advantages cannot be obtained.

Second, since the claimed structure is located at the surface of either of the first and second compartments of the scroll case, and the structure is configured such that the position of the door relative to the structure can control air flow into the first and second passages from at

least one of the first and second inlets, mixed air flow into either of the openings of the first and second compartments of the scroll case can be easily obtained.

Third, since the single door and first and second inlets are configured to face either of the openings of the first and second compartments, one of the air passages (for example, the first air passage) is shorter than the other (for example, the second air passage). Because the first air passage is relatively short, in the winter time, cold outside air can be rapidly supplied to the first compartment opening and frost can be rapidly removed. On the other hand, since the second air passage is relatively long, in the winter time, cold outside air can be supplied to the second compartment with a slight delay which provides sufficient time to warm the air before entering the passenger salon. In the applied references, the first and second air passages are of about the same length and, therefore, the above advantages cannot be obtained.

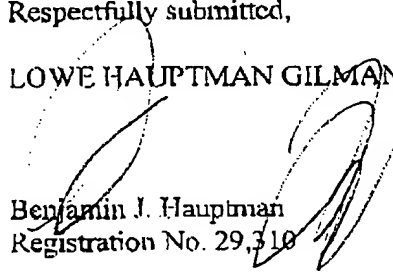
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims in the present application are patentable over the art. Withdrawal of the Final Office Action and early indication of allowance are courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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